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# The McClanahans

Henry Martyn  
White







# THE McCLANAHANS.

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## PREFACE.

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TO know whence we sprung is a trait peculiar to human beings; and the higher we ascend in the scale of intelligence and moral worth, the more this trait seems to grow. They who cherish not the memory of their ancestors will not have a posterity to cherish theirs.

The following sketch is prepared for the present generation of McClanahans and those to follow. It is not expected to be of interest to any outside of the "Clan."

The writer regrets his inability to trace the lineage beyond the sea. This might be done by a visit to the North of Ireland.

H. M. WHITE.



# THE McCLANAHANS.

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## CHAPTER I.

ROBERT MCCLANAHAN.

SO far as is known, Augusta County, in the Valley of Virginia, was not visited by white men before Governor Spotswood in person took possession for King George the first, of England. This was done September 5, 1716, on the Shenandoah River, it is believed at a point about opposite Swift Run Gap, in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

It has not been clearly shown in what year the first white man, or colony of white men, settled in the Upper Valley. But it seems to be proved conclusively that the first white settler of Augusta County, as now bounded, was John Lewis—the father of Thomas, Andrew, William and Charles, who distinguished themselves greatly in the early history of Virginia, especially in the wars with the Indians, French and British. He came from Donegal County, Province of Ulster, Ireland, and

was of Scottish descent. He settled on "Lewis Creek," as it has ever since been called, which empties into the Middle Fork of the Shenandoah and near to the site of Staunton. The Valley of Virginia was then a wooded "prairie of hills and dales."

The early settlers were not disturbed by the Indians for a time. Through twenty years, they who had fled from Ireland to escape war, lived and died, says Foote, in his "Sketches of Virginia," "in that peace in this wilderness for which their hearts had longed in their native land." "During this time," writes Waddell, in his "Annals of Augusta County," that is to say, during first twenty years after John Lewis came, "the young Lewises, *McClanahans*, *Matthewses*, *Campbells*, and others, were growing up and maturing for many a desperate encounter and field of battle."

Again he writes: "By the year 1745 the Alexanders, Allens, Andersons, Bells, Bowyers, Breckinridges, Browns, Buchanans, Campbells, Christians, Craigs, Cunninghams, Dickinsons, Doaks, Finleys, Johnstons, Kerrs, Lewises, Lyles, Matthewses, Millers, Moores, McNutts, Moffetts, McPheeters, *McClanahans*, McDowellss, McClungs, Pattons, Pickenses, Pattersons, Pilsons,

Poages, Prestons, Robinsons, Scotts, Sitlingtons, Stuarts, Tates, Thompsons, Trimbles, Wilsons, Youngs, and others, abounded in the settlement. Other immigrants of the same race came in afterwards."

*Robert McClanahan* came to Augusta County from Ireland. The time of his coming has not been certainly determined, but it was at an early day. His deed to three hundred and thirty-one acres of land by William Beverly, dated May 27, 1741, is on record in Orange Courthouse, Virginia. There was no clerk's office, in Augusta County, until 1745. His wife, Sarah Breckinridge, was daughter of Alexander Breckinridge, who came to America from the North of Ireland in 1728, and removed from Pennsylvania to a farm near the present site of Staunton, in Augusta County, Virginia. Robert McClanahan died in 1791, at his home, one mile south of Staunton, on what is known now as the Greenville road. He was, therefore, "the emigrant and founder." His children were Alexander, John, Robert and William (sons); with Mrs. St. Clair, Mrs. Dean, Mrs. Poage and Mrs. Keiser (daughters). It is a little doubtful whether Mrs. Poage was daughter or granddaughter of Robert, the first; but the evidence for the former is very strong.

Mr. Frederick Johnston, in his "Memorials of Virginia Clerks" (page 52), says that "Robert McClanahan, throughout his whole life, was a prominent man." From the "Annals of Augusta County," by Waddell, we learn that he acted in various public capacities during his life.

Quoting from the records of the county, Waddell writes as follows: "August 22, 1748, it appears that John Lewis had contracted to erect the public buildings of the parish for £148. \* \* \* From a bond executed by Colonel Lewis, with Robert McClanahan as security, \* \* \* it appears that one of the buildings was a dwelling house for the parish minister." \* \* \* "November 28, 1749, a commission to Robert McClanahan, gent., to be sheriff of this county during his majesty's pleasure, was produced in court," etc. Adam Breckinridge, son of Alexander Breckinridge, who was founder of the distinguished family of that name in this county, and brother-in-law of McClanahan, "qualified as deputy sheriff."—*Annals, page 41.*

In 1750, the County Clerk employed Andrew Lewis as surveyor, to lay off twenty-five acres in town lots. The court appointed Andrew Lewis, Robert McClanahan, and Robert Breckinridge,

commissioners to convey the lots to purchasers. Robert McClanahan purchased two half-acre lots for £2. 10 s.—*Annals, pages 45, 46.*

In the year 1755, the French and Indians combined in a war against the British. Companies were formed in Augusta to oppose them. The Shawnees were on the war-path. General Washington was in command of our forces at Winchester on October the eleventh. At this time “some friendly Cherokees were expected at Staunton to be employed against the Shawnees, and the Governor wrote to David Stuart and Robert McClanahan to treat these allies well.”—*Annals, page 77.*

“At the meeting of the vestry” (of Augusta parish) “November 9, 1773, the Rev. John Jones agreed to receive the Rev. Alexander Balmaine as curate, and to pay him at the rate of £100 a year, directing his attorney, Robert McClanahan, to pay the same out of his salary.” In a personal letter, Mr. Waddell writes that the Rev. Mr. Jones, “the last rector of Augusta parish under the religious establishment before the Revolution,” and Robert McClanahan, were very close friends.

Sarah Breckinridge, the wife of Robert McClanahan was, according to tradition, a woman of very strong mind, and her company was much

sought by the most cultivated people of her day. Her father was a staunch Presbyterian.

Robert McClanahan, "after having lived at various places in Staunton, removed to his farm, a mile south of town, now (1886) owned by Mrs. Gay and her children. This farm was conveyed to McClanahan, in 1748, by Robert Beverley, and was left by the former, at his death, in 1791, to his executors, Alexander McClanahan and Alexander St. Clair. The terms imply a secret trust. At any rate, the executors conveyed the farm to Robert McC., son of Captain Robert and grandson of Robert the first. Robert the third conveyed it to John McDowell, who built the present handsome brick dwelling on the hill, having lived, in the meanwhile, as the first Robert McClanahan had, in a small house near the Greenville road."

*Annals, pages 41, 42.*

In the early settlement of a country, before any great enterprises can be formed or undertaken; when men and money are scarce, and there is no law, one, whose sturdy character, sound judgment, and good heart, make him a wise counsellor and trusted ally, is above all price, and there is no equivalent or substitute for him. Such an one he seems to have been, a sketch or

outline of whose posterity it is proposed to write on these pages. To have had such an one as ancestor, is not only a pleasing subject of reflection, but also an inspiration to a similar life in those who follow and uphold the family name.

## CHAPTER II.

### BROTHERS OF ROBERT McCLANAHAN.

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BLAIR McCLANAHAN,

BROTHER of Robert the first, settled in Philadelphia and became a wealthy merchant. After the Revolution he represented his district in the Fifth Congress, 1797. One of his daughters married — Reid, who was a nephew of Dr. Franklin.—*Old Virginia Clerks*, page 51.

From another source considered reliable, I find that the name of this daughter who married — Reid “was probably Huldah. He had another daughter named Deborah, who married Walton Stewart.” From the published archives of the Pennsylvania Colony, in the Peabody Library, Baltimore, Md., ample evidence is obtained to confirm Mr. Johnston’s statement, *i. e.*, that Blair McClenahan was “a wealthy merchant” in Philadelphia. He was a member of the firm of “McClenaghan and Irvin,” and a representative in Congress from 1797–9.

The following extracts from the same authority have been furnished me by the Rev. Samuel McLanahan, of Baltimore, Md. :

- (1) March 3, 1779. The council cleared from port brig "Convention," owned by him.
- (2) March 30, 1779. Mess. McClenaghan and Irvin were authorized to fit out ship "Gen'l Greene," for defense and protection of the trade.
- (3) April 5, 1779. Council appropriated stores for this ship.
- (4) November 3, 1779. M. Clarkson, Marshal to the Court of Admiralty, represented that he had been violently opposed and insulted in the execution of his office by "Blair McClenachan," merchant and principal owner of the privateer "Holker," who with the aid of sailors had taken out of the marshal's possession a ship, "London (?) Rose," captured by said privateer. Council ordered investigation and suit, if proper.
- (5) April 8, 1779. (Volume XI, page 743). Blair McClenaghan was authorized to receive loans for the State.

Mr. McLanahan adds that "the name was most frequently spelled with a *c*—McClenachan."

#### JAMES MCCLANNAGHAN.

It is recorded in the land office at Harrisburg, Pa., that a warrant was issued at Philadelphia, May 17, 1734, to James McClannaghan, to take up two hundred acres of land on Octorara Creek,

in Lancaster County. This warrant was returned as transferred to William Webster on the 18th of December, 1746. A few months after this transfer, *i. e.*, on the 18th of April 1747, James McClannaghan took out a warrant for one hundred and fifty acres of land along the Maryland line. For this and for other land he received a patent in 1762. His will was made on the 6th of June, 1764, and was probated on May 27, 1777. There was a Scotch-Irish settlement on Octorara Creek, and the most of the settlers of the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania, came in from the lower counties.

This James McClannaghan came to America, as nearly as can be ascertained, about 1739, from the North of Ireland, and died A. D. 1771. His son, James McLenahan, married Isabella Craig, of Cecil County, Maryland, in 1761. Their son, James, married Elizabeth Boggs, of whom were born five children, the eldest of which was J. King McLenahan, now living in Hollidaysburg, Penn. Their son John married E. Johnston and begat Thomas Johnston (who became a prosperous merchant of Philadelphia), and Isabella, afterwards Mrs. George Brown, of Baltimore, who built the "Brown Memorial Church." William McLenahan, the sixth child of James and Isabella, mar-

ried Mary Gregg, and begat four children, the second of which was James X., who was a member of the Thirty-first Congress, from 1849-53.

The similarity of the names—McClannaghan and McClannahan, and the identity of many of the family surnames, together with the coincidence in the time of their coming to America from the North of Ireland, render it very probable that James and Robert were near of kin, and probably brothers.

#### ELIJAH McCCLANAHAN.

Quoting from "Henning's Statutes at Large" (as he writes to me personally), Waddell says, on page 108, Annals of Augusta County, Virginia: "The town of Staunton was at last chartered by act of Assembly in November, 1761. The first trustees of the town were William Preston, William Lewis, William Christian, *Eledge* McClanahan, Robert Breckinridge, and Randal Lockheart."

[It is questionable who this *Eledge* McClanahan was. Waddell, in a letter to me writes, viz.: "Possibly he was a cousin of Robert. I do not think he was a brother, but he may have been." He thinks "*Eledge*" a misprint for *Alex.*, abbreviated from Alexander, who was son of Robert. But, in view of the following facts, the second of

which was not known to Waddell when he wrote the foregoing, I think he was Robert's older brother : (1) The similarity between "Eledge" and Elijah, by reason of which a mistake of one for the other was quite possible. (2) A letter in my possession, written by Elijah McClanahan, from "Augusta County, November 25, '89" (1789), to his married daughter with "a rising family," Mrs. Jinnie Holliday, Winchester, Virginia. It was written in his old age to bid her "a last farewell." As Robert came from Ireland about 1740 and died in 1791, this letter was written two years before he died, when, we may suppose he was, about seventy-five years old. (3) The fact that we hear nothing of his being in active service in the field during the Indian wars and Revolution, and of his holding offices of much responsibility during and after the war, would indicate the same. (4) Both Elijah McClanahan and Alexander McClanahan were on the court to try disloyal persons after the war, but Elijah was foreman of the court.]

#### RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

The separation between church and State in Virginia was not effected until December 17, 1785, when the "Bill of Rights," drawn up by Thomas

Jefferson, became law. Yet the preparation for this event was in progress for some years beforehand. While the honor of having drawn the first memorial to the Virginia House of Burgesses on this subject, is due to the Presbytery of Hanover, whose memorial was written and forwarded November 11, 1774, yet Augusta County was among the first to fall into line.

Waddell says (page 155) : " In October, 1776, the several companies of militia and freeholders of Augusta forwarded, to the representatives of the county in the Legislature, their sentiments on the subject of religious liberty. They demanded that all religious denominations within the Dominion be forthwith put in full possession of equal liberty without preference or preëminence," etc. This paper was signed by a number of gentlemen, among whose names are those of Elijah McClanahan and Alexander St. Clair, who married a daughter of Robert McClanahan.—*American Archives, Fifth Series, Volume II, page 815.*

#### TREASON TRIALS AFTER THE REVOLUTION.

Only two men in Augusta County have been heard of who were disloyal to their State. These were brought to trial in 1781, and a bill of indictment for levying war against the Commonwealth

was found against them. The court which tried them "was composed of Elijah McClanahan, Alexander St. Clair, Alexander McClanahan, Thomas Adams, and James Trimble."—*Annals*, page 174. If we are right in the opinion that Elijah McClanahan was brother of Robert the first, then was this court of five composed of an uncle, a nephew, and a brother-in-law, with two others. At any event, the court of five contained three members of the same family.

That Elijah McClanahan was one of the first trustees of the town of Staunton; a freeholder, demanding religious liberty from the Legislature of the State; the chairman of the court that sat in judgment on disloyal citizens during the Revolution, are facts on which his family may dwell with pleasurable emotions. But to my mind his intrinsic worth is best seen in the most precious relic of the family records—the letter to his daughter already referred to. None but a heart made mellow by the purest spirit of reverence and devotion to God, and none but a sound and excellent mind could have written it. It is a long letter, full of wise and wholesome counsel. He urges upon her, with affectionate tenderness, "the value of her soul;" "the free offer" of salvation in Christ; the freedom from "slavish

fears" obtained through the gospel; "a particular regard to the Sabbath day, which alas! is too frequently spent in idle conversation, tea-drinking and various amusements;" and closes with these words: "You will see that my sentences are short and broken, but my earnest desire and prayer is that your soul may be saved through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be everlasting and eternal praise."

## CHAPTER III.

### CHILDREN OF ROBERT McCLANAHAN.

#### I.—ALEXANDER.

HE was the first son of Robert the first and his wife, Sarah. He married a Miss Shelton, who was sister of Patrick Henry's first wife. His first appearance in military life was during the Indian wars.

#### BOUQUET'S EXPEDITION.

In the year 1764, the Indians in Western Pennsylvania and Western Virginia, rose up in mass against the whites, but were defeated by British troops and driven beyond the Ohio River. To conciliate and make them good neighbors, the government issued a proclamation forbidding any subject of Great Britain to hunt or settle west of the Alleghany mountains without written permission. After this a military force, under Colonel Bouquet, was sent across the Ohio River to treat with them.

In his command was a regiment of Virginians, one of whose companies was commanded by Captain Alexander McClanahan. John McClanahan, his brother, was lieutenant in another company.

One of the fruits of this expedition, which seemed to have been bloodless, was the recovery from the savages of many who had been captured and carried off by the Indians at different times in their hostile incursions upon the whites. The infant son of Lieutenant John McClanahan received from the government one thousand acres of bounty land for the services of his father in this expedition, his father having died about ten years after his return.

#### THE BATTLE OF POINT PLEASANT.

Ten years after Bouquet's expedition, A. D. 1774, the Indians along the Ohio River rose up with a spirit of desperate determination against the whites. They had become provoked by the gradual occupation of Kentucky by the latter in spite of Bouquet's proclamation. Convinced that they were doomed to destruction tribe by tribe if they stood on the defensive, they formed a confederacy, mustered their warriors together, and gave command of the whole army to Cornstalk, a chief, who proved himself in every way worthy

of the confidence they reposed in him. He opened his campaign by attacking the whites on the border, plundering their property and massacring their people.

This roused the Government of Virginia at Williamsburg. Governor Dunmore ordered General Andrew Lewis, then living in Botetourt County, to raise a force of ten or twelve hundred men in the upper Valley and march to Point Pleasant on the Ohio River. He himself, with another force, recruited in the lower Valley, set out for Fort Pitt, in Western Pennsylvania (now Pittsburgh), intending to join Lewis. Of General Lewis' command, four hundred were from Augusta County, and composed a regiment which was commanded by his brother, Colonel Charles Lewis; the rest were from Botetourt County and were commanded by Colonel Fleming. Alexander McClanahan commanded, as captain, a company in Colonel Lewis' regiment, and Robert McClanahan, Jr., was captain of a company in Colonel Fleming's regiment.

Governor Dunmore failed to join General Lewis, when Cornstalk, taking advantage of the situation, delivered battle against Lewis at Point Pleasant, August 10, 1774. In this noted and decisive engagement, which lasted all day and

was very bloody, Captain Robert McClanahan fell, mortally wounded. He left two sons—Robert, the third of the name—who moved into Kentucky. Two colonels, *i. e.*, Lewis and Field, six captains, and three lieutenants with other subalterns, were among the slain in this desperate engagement. See Howe's History of Virginia, page 363.

#### REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

On the 22nd of February, 1775, the freeholders of Augusta county assembled to choose members of the convention of Virginia, called to consider the question of opposing the tyranny of Great Britain over the States. Mr. Thomas Lewis and Captain Samuel McDowell were chosen members of the convention, and a committee was raised to draw up a bill of instructions for their guidance. This committee consisted of the Rev. Alexander Balmaine, Mr. Samuel Matthews, *Captain Alexander McClanahan*, Mr. Michael Bowyer, Mr. William Lewis, and Captain George Matthews. Waddell says, this was "the first patriotic meeting of the people of Augusta County of which we have any account."

At the commencement of the Revolution, Alexander McClanahan was commissioned Lieutenant-

Colonel of the Seventh Regiment of Virginia Volunteers. (William Dangerfield was colonel and William Nelson major of this regiment.) He was in the battle of Great Bridge, near Norfolk, December 9, 1775, where "every British grenadier was killed without loss to the Virginians." He served also at Williamsburg in 1776, under General Andrew Lewis, and was commissioned colonel of the same regiment, October 7th of the same year. He was also engaged in the battle of Gwynn's Island, July 8, 1776, after the burning of Norfolk, which battle put an end to the inglorious career of Lord Dunmore as Governor of Virginia. "Shortly after, Dunmore left the coast of Virginia forever."—*Howe's History of Virginia*, page 376.

The *Virginia Gazette*, of July 29, 1776, copied in Howe's Virginia, page 377, says: "General Lewis then ordered two hundred men, under Colonel McClanahan, to land on the island, which was performed as expeditiously as our small vessels would admit of. On our arrival we found the enemy had evacuated the place with the greatest precipitation, and were struck with horror at the number of dead bodies in a state of putrefaction." In this engagement Lord Dunmore was wounded in the leg.

Alexander had three children—a son, named John, who died young and unmarried, and two daughters, Mrs. Abney and Mrs. Austin. Descendants of these ladies now live in Augusta County.

## II.—JOHN.

His wife was Margaret Ann, daughter of Thomas Lewis, who was a son of "John Lewis, the founder." The union between these two families, Lewis and McClanahan, beginning at that early period, has been frequently repeated down to the present time.

"Thomas Lewis, the county surveyor, was disqualified for military service by defective vision, but was a man of culture and influence, and held various important positions. He was a member of the House of Burgesses and of the State Convention in 1775, and commissioner in 1777 to treat with the Indian tribes on the Ohio. He died October 31, 1790."—*Waddell's Annals*, page 80.

John McClanahan died in 1774, leaving a son, named Thomas Lewis, who died in November, 1774. After his death a child was born in December, 1774, and was called John. His widow married William Bowyer. In a personal letter Mr. Waddell writes as follows: "John McClan-

ahan, son of John, was educated at William and Mary College, and was a youth of large fortune. He married Mildred Maupin, of Williamsburg, and had seven children, only two of whom lived to maturity. He went to Kentucky in 1807 and, coming back to Virginia, died in 1815, probably in Lewisburg. His son John (the third) married Eliza McClung, of Greenbrier, and died in 1838, leaving children. A daughter of John (the second) married Captain John Gautt, of the United States Army, and their son, N. B. Gautt, lived in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1890."

### III.—ROBERT McCCLANAHAN THE SECOND.

He, with others, made the first permanent settlement in Greenbrier, then a part of Botetourt County. As we have seen, he was captain of a company in Colonel Fleming's regiment, and was killed in battle with the Indians at Point Pleasant. He left two sons, Robert and John, who went to Kentucky. He is said to have been a physician.

### IV.—WILLIAM McCCLANAHAN.

He was the fourth son of Robert, the founder. He was born December 25, 1740, and died in 1819. He moved from Augusta County to Botetourt before the battle of Point Pleasant, and

settled on or near what is now the McAdamized road, three or four miles east of the present site of Salem, in Roanoke County. The farm was afterwards owned by one Cavell. All the land around there, called afterwards "The Barrens," was covered with scrub oak and scrub pine, over which a deer could leap, as Colonel James McClanahan, son of William, said in 1865, to a social company, of whom I was one.

The Indians were sometimes seen lurking about. This fact greatly alarmed the family on one occasion when the lad, Elijah McClanahan, was belated after nightfall while returning, with a bag of corn meal, from the mill. Their joy was equally great when a diligent search in the night, in which all the neighbors joined, was rewarded by his being found.

William McClanahan was married to Sarah Neely, March 7, 1769, at the home of her parents, on the creek east of Salem, between that town and the present city of Roanoke. This place was owned, until within a few years past, by Mr. Jerry Pitzer. Her family afterwards moved to Tennessee.

Mr. McClanahan removed to the south bank of Roanoke River, about 1780, beside "the Big Spring," as it was called for nearly a century and

a half. It is now known as the Crystal Spring, at the foot of Mill Mountain, on its southwestern side, and supplies the city of Roanoke with water. Here he built a house of hewn logs, with two large rooms on the ground floor, and a passage between, one and one-half stories high. After a while two rooms were added. The two chimnies, built of stone, at the ends of the house, were large and contained large fire-places. The house stood northwest and southeast; in front of the right or chamber window of the present house (1894), and distant from it about sixty feet. The northwest end was a few feet to the right of the present walk, which extends from the front door of the house now occupied by Wm. S. McClanahan to the yard gate. It had a porch in front, facing Tinker Mountain. Port-holes were cut in the log walls, through which to fire upon attacking savages. The stairway was within the house. In later years the log walls were weather-boarded. So it stood until 1855, when it was removed by E. G. McClanahan.

## CHAPTER IV.

### OFFSPRING OF WILLIAM McCCLANAHAN, SR., AND SARAH, HIS WIFE.

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(1) ELIJAH McClanahan ~~was~~ born April 20, 1770 ; married September 3, 1795, Agatha Strother Lewis, daughter of Colonel Andrew Lewis, who then lived on Bent Mountain ; offspring, twelve children. Colonel Andrew Lewis was fourth son of General Andrew Lewis.

2. Nancy McClanahan ; born August 15, 1772 ; married Colonel William Lewis, son of General Andrew Lewis ; owned and lived on what is now called the Burwell estate, near Salem ; afterwards moved to Alabama ; offspring, a large family ; Dr. Andrew Lewis was one of them ; Lewis was her second husband ; the first was Thomas Madison ; Dr. William Lewis, who married Miss Mary McFarland, daughter of Rev. Francis McFarland, D. D., a Presbyterian minister of Augusta County, Virginia, was her son ; the Rev. Frank W. Lewis, of Clinton, Louisiana, was their child.

3. Jane McClanahan ; born November 27, 1774 ; married Andrew Lewis, grandson of General Andrew Lewis ; offspring, a family of six children ; owned and lived on the farm now (1894) owned by Captain R. B. Moorman, on the northeast of Roanoke.

4. James McClanahan ; born September 10, 1777 ; married Elizabeth Walton, of Georgia, in April, 1808 ; offspring, nine children—six sons and three daughters ; owned and lived on a farm southwest of Roanoke city, and distant about one mile, on the Norfolk and Western Railroad.

#### COLONELS ELIJAH AND JAMES McCCLANAHAN.

[Colonel Elijah McClanahan was a man of noble build in body, mind and spirit. In person, he was tall and large, without being portly ; his countenance was impressive, blending kindness and candor with gravity ; his disposition was cheerful and sociable ; his probity beyond all reproach ; and the love and fear of God governed his life. He was a tower of strength in the Presbyterian Church at Salem as a ruling elder, and was the chief builder of the church at Big Lick. His name in the church extended beyond his own Presbytery. It was considered a privilege by strangers from a distance to know him.

His brother, Colonel James McClanahan, was very much like him. It would be difficult to compare and impossible to contrast them. When I went to Roanoke to live in June, 1860, their names were on the lips of everybody. They were better and more favorably known, it seemed to me, than any two men in the county. A noble pair of brothers. Long should their memory be cherished and honored by their descendants.]

5. John McClanahan ; born April 30, 1780 ; married Lucy Walton, February, 1806, sister of William Walton, who lived one mile west of Salem and was an elder in the Salem church, noted for his piety ; offspring, five children—two sons and three daughters ; Charles, Sarah Griffin and Lucy Tosh brought up families ; lived on a farm adjoining the old homestead on the Franklin turnpike ; died in 1814.

6. Washington McClanahan ; born October 3, 1782 ; unmarried ; died in 1816, from lung trouble, caught, it was said, by sleeping between damp sheets, at a hotel, while stopping on a journey.

7. Green McClanahan ; born October 3, 1782 ; twin brother of Washington ; married Elizabeth Griffin, of Staunton, Virginia, June, 1808 ; lived on a farm on Glade Creek, one mile or more east

of Vinton ; died in 1820 ; offspring, three sons and two daughters.

8. Mary McClanahan ; born March 19, 1785 ; married Dr. Marcle, of Liberty, (now Bedford City), Bedford County, Virginia ; offspring, four children ; Dr. Marcle, after her death in 1819, went West.

9. Sarah McClanahan ; born October 13, 1788 ; married Moses Cook ; lived on Tinker Creek in homestead called "Rocky Dale;" offspring, five children ; the widow, with two daughters, Sarah and Julia, moved to Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia, where she died ; (only Sarah and Nancy, of the nine children, died outside of Roanoke County). Mr. Cook was a talented lawyer, of much personal popularity, as was his son William after him ; Mrs. Cook was a woman of extraordinary beauty and received much attention in society.

Not one of the nine children had a double name.

William McClanahan, Sr., seems to have been prospered in business. He gave a farm to each of his children, as we have seen. It seems that these farms were in the woods for the most part and that they built their own dwelling houses. Four of these houses still stand (1894), *i. e.*,

Green's, on Glade Creek ; John's, on the Franklin pike ; Elijah's, about three miles north of Roanoke city ; James', one mile southwest of Roanoke city.

As evidence of his prosperity, and an interesting relic of a past century, I insert the following copy of a store account, taken from an original manuscript of excellent, substantial body, though yellow with age and so mutilated by time as to be illegible in parts :

## THE McCCLANAHANS.

1765 (Copy.) Col. William McClanahan, Dr.

		£	s	d
June 13	To 6½ yd Jeans a 5/- To 2½ yd Clouded Ds a 6/6 . . . . .	2	8	9
	To 4½ yd Durant a 3/6 To 1 stub twist 1 . . . . .	16	9	
	(Torn out) . . . . . To 3½ yd Calico a 6/-	1	3	4
	To . . Calico a 6/6 To 1 Table Cloth 12/6 . . . . .	19		
	To pr Shoe Buckles 1/6 To pr woman's Gloves 4/-	5	6	
	To set knives and forks 6/- To 3 yds Ribbon a 1/6 . . . . .	10		
	To 3 yds Osnabgs a 1/2 To 2 yds Do a 1/6 . . . . .	6	6	
	. . . . . To 2 yd lace a 1/10 . . . . .	1	0	
	. . . . . To 1 Doz Needles 9d . . . . .	1	1	
July 2d	. . Sugar a 10d . . . . .	5		
"	To 1½ yd Durant a 3/6 To 1 Doz Bits Mould 4d . . . . .	5	7	
	To 5 yd Jeans a 5/6 To 1¼ yds Durant a 3/6 . . . . .	11	10½	
	. . . . . 4/6 To wafers . . . 1/ . . . . .	6	7½	
	. . . . . 9/ To 1 Dish 4/- to 1 Do 3/6 . . . . .	15	6	
	. . Plates 3d To 2 pr knitting Needles 8d . . . . .	1	2	
	. . . . . 9d To needles 8d To 3 yds Edging 3/9 . . . . .	5	2	
	. . . . . 12/5 To 1 Card Sleeve Buttons 1/6 . . . . .	13	11	
	. . . . . 4/6 To 1 file 2/ . . . . .	8		
	. . . . . 1/3 To yr order M P Robinson 15/- . . . . .	16	3	
	. . . . . 3/2 To the . . . . . 2 lb shott 1/6 . . . . .	12	11	
	Qt Rum 2/3 . . . . .	3	6	
	Webb . . . . .	8	-	0
		4	6	
		15		

THE McCLEANAHANS.

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Novr	To 2 hanks silk 2/ To paper . . . . .	
	To yr order per Panob 15/ . . . . .	
Decr 2	To 1 pr marking Irons 2/ To 2 chisels 3/2 . . . . .	
"	To 1 gallon Cider 2/ . . . . .	
1766		
Jan. 5	To 1 oz . . . 2/ . . . . .	
" 28	To 3½ yds Linen a 2/ pr . . . . .	2
Feby 5	To pd Wm. Ligraves 7/ To Qt Rum 2/ . . . . .	
	To 3 lb Copperas 2/ To 1 oz th . . . 2/ . . . . .	
Mar 6	To 2 files a 2/ . . . . .	
	To p . . . . . private acct	

Mr. Wm. McClanahan, Sr., died about 1820, from amputation of the leg, rendered necessary by disease which began in the foot. His wife, the mother of all his children, survived him, and died about 1824. In person she was slender, and in old age suffered from palsy in the head. They both died in the old homestead and were buried in the old burying ground near by. This venerable cemetery was the only one within a radius of sixteen miles, as Mrs. "Betsy McClanahan" personally testified to Mrs. Colonel Thomas Lewis, and according to her memory, "the whole hill was covered <sup>with</sup> graves." Mrs. "Betsy McClanahan" personally testified to Mrs. Blanche White also, that a pine tree had grown up between the head and foot stones of the grave of her father-in law, Colonel Wm. McClanahan. Mrs. White remembers this tree. It was blown down, and a snag of its stump (root) may now (1894) be seen between these stones.

After the death of Mrs. Wm. McClanahan, Sr., the homestead was inherited by her grandson, Charles McClanahan, who sold it to William, son of James McClanahan, who sold it to Colonel J. R. Richardson, who sold it to Thomas Tosh, who sold it to Elijah McClanahan, son of Green and grandson of William, the senior. He afterwards

(1860) bought the Big Spring mill on the place and removed a deed of trust that had long been on it. His widow, Emma S. McClanahan, bought it at the sale, and sold it to a land company in 1889.

V.—JANE McCCLANAHAN, FIFTH CHILD OF  
ROBERT, THE FOUNDER.

Her husband, Alexander St. Clair, came from Belfast, Ireland, and was for a long time a prosperous merchant in Staunton, and an active member of the County Court. He also represented Augusta in the State Senate, in the years 1791–3. Her children were as follows :

1. Anne, wife of John Boys. She died when only nineteen years old, and her husband died a few years afterwards, leaving one child, Kitty Boys, who was the mother of Mr. Joseph A. Waddell, author of “Annals of Augusta County, Virginia,” and member of the “Virginia Historical Society.”

2. Jane, wife of Dr. William Boys, a cousin of John. Among her numerous descendants are the Cochrans, Telfairs, and Trimble. Her only son, Alexander St. Clair Boys, died in Ohio, unmarried.

3. Sally, wife of Captain Robert Williamson, a native of Scotland, and a sea-captain ; a man

highly esteemed and eminent for his piety. They had two sons and two daughters. Probably some children of one of the sons are now living in Ohio. One of the daughters married a gentleman named McLauren, and left a number of children, some of whom are in Texas.

#### VI.—MRS. DEAN.

One of her descendants, probably a granddaughter, was the wife of Robert Anderson, of Augusta County, who died leaving one child, Wm. D. Anderson, who also died a few years ago, leaving several children.

#### VII.—POLLY MCCLANAHAN.

Married Thomas Poage.

#### THE POAGE CONNEXION.

Robert Poage, Sr., with his wife Elizabeth and nine children, came from Ireland to Philadelphia, and from there to this colony, "at his own expense." The time of his coming is not known, but, on May 22, 1740, he appeared at Orange court to "prove his importation," that he might take up public lands. He settled three miles north of Staunton.

Thomas Poage, son of Robert Poage, Sr., inherited his father's homestead. He and his wife, Polly McClanahan, had eight children :

1. Elijah ; married Nancy Grattan, and went to Kentucky.

2. Robert ; married Martha Crawford, and went to Kentucky.

3. John ; married Mrs. Rachel Crawford, and lived in Rockbridge county ; father of Colonel Wm. S. Poage, now (1894) in Lexington, Virginia, who distinguished himself in the war between the States for gallant and meritorious services as artillery officer.

4. William ; married Peggy Allen. One of his daughters married General James A. Walker, who commanded the Stonewall Brigade in "the war between the States;" afterwards became Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia ; now a lawyer in Wytheville, Virginia.

5. Ann ; married Major Archibald Woods, of Botetourt ; grandfather of Rev. Edgar Woods, of Albemarle, founder of Pantop's Academy, who is (1894) father of three Presbyterian missionaries in Tsing-Kiang-Pu, China.

6. Elizabeth ; married Rev. Wm. Wilson, second pastor of old Augusta church, which was built before Braddock's war, on "on the prairie

hills and vales of the Triple Forks of Shenandoah," and still stands, in constant use (1894). He died December 1, 1835, having numbered ninety-four years; his wife survived him two years and died at the same age. (For a sketch of his life, see Foote's Sketches of Virginia, Second Series, pages 108-9.)

7. Polly ; married Hon. Thomas Wilson, brother of Rev. Wm. Wilson, who was father of Rev. Norvel Wilson, and grandfather of Bishop Alpheus Wilson, of the Southern Methodist Church. His daughter, Mrs. Louise Lowrie, was a missionary in India.

8. Agnes ; died unmarried. (See Supplement to Waddell's Annals, page 443.)

#### ELIJAH MCCLANAHAN.

Elijah and Agatha McClanahan and their family of twelve :

1. Elizabeth ; married Dr. Gabriel Nash ; second husband was Dr. Cox, of Missouri ; offspring, several children.

2. Sallie ; married Edward White, brother of Alexander White, of Fort Lewis ; offspring, seven children.

3. Mary ; married R. D. Montague ; offspring, five. She was mother-in-law of Judge

George Junkin, whose son, William Junkin, is now (1894) missionary in Corea.

4. Agnes ; married Dr. John Ingles ; offspring, four, one of whom is Mrs. Colonel Thomas Lewis, of Roanoke.

5. Lucy ; married William Johnston ; offspring, six.

6. Nancy ; married Colin Bass.

7. Catharine ; married Thomas Ingles ; offspring, five.

8. Fannie ; married Thomas Micou, of Essex County, Virginia ; second husband, Rev. Charles Miller ; grandmother of Rev. W. McC. Miller ; offspring, five.

9. Jane ; married Rev. J. N. Lewis ; offspring, two.

10. Peggy ; died young.

11. William ; engaged to marry Patsy Lewis ; both died from fever without having married.

12. Andrew.

#### JAMES McCCLANAHAN.

James and Elizabeth and their family :

1. Robert ; died unmarried.

2. Thomas ; died unmarried.

3. Elisha ; married Fannie Jeter ; offspring, five.

4. Blanche ; married Rev. Thomas Sydnor, D. D. ; offspring, four.

5. Mary ; married Quinn M. Word ; offspring, four children.

6. Elizabeth ; unmarried.

7. James ; married Virginia White.

8. Edward ; married Susan Holt.

John and Lucy and their family :

1. Charles ; married Lizzie White, of Pennsylvania ; offspring, four children.

2. Sarah ; married Dr. John H. Griffin, of Salem, Virginia ; offspring, eleven—among them Captain Charles (Griffin's Battery, Army Northern Virginia), Rev. John Griffin, Samuel, Judge Wingfield, Thomas, United States Navy.

3. Mary ; married John White ; Mrs. Fannie Patton her only child.

4. Lucy ; married Thomas Tosh ; offspring, nine, seven of whom grew to maturity.

Green and Elizabeth and their family :

1. Elizabeth ; ~~married Abram~~ <sup>to George</sup> Rader ; offspring, four—two died in Confederate States Army on same day and in the same room ; second husband William McClung—offspring, three, Laura, Thomas and Sarah.

2. Washington ; unmarried.

3. Sarah Neely ; married Dr. Fox ; no child that lived ; second husband Rev. Thomas Busey—offspring, five, William, Norvel, Henry, Elizabeth and Charles.

4. John ; married Maria May, Scottsville, Virginia ; offspring, two, Green and Norma.

5. Elijah ; married Sarah Margaret Hurt ; offspring, three—Laura, wife of Rev. A. W. Pitzer, D. D., of Washington, D. C. ; Maria Blanche, wife of Rev. H. M. White, D. D., of Winchester, Va. ; Nannie, wife of P. H. Rorer, of Roanoke, Va. Second wife, Emma Samantha Crenshaw ; offspring, four—Robert, Sarah, William S., and Etta.

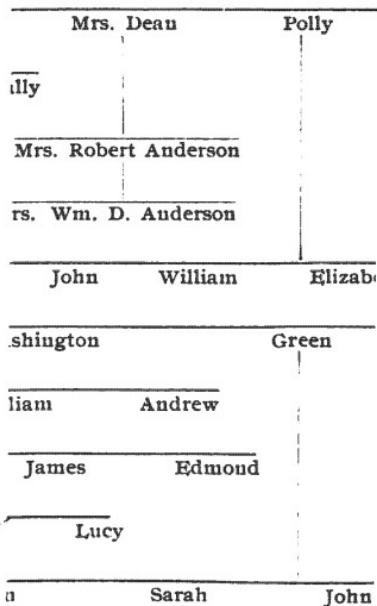
#### THE WAR OF 1861-5.

The good name made by the McClanahans in the Indian wars and in the war of the Revolution, was not suffered to be lost in that “between the States.” All the young men of the family, without exception, so far as can be ascertained, who were of serviceable age, enlisted voluntarily and made good records as soldiers, both in rank and file, of the Army of Northern Virginia.





, JAMES, ELIJAH].





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